IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for physical detection and tracking of devices on a computer network disposed within a building comprising a first room and plurality of rooms, distinct from the first room, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of outlets, each outlet thereof housed within a room of the plurality of rooms and containing substantially exclusively, as its electronically active elements, electrical conductors carrying data signals unprocessed therethrough;

a network infrastructure device operably connected to the network and selected from the group consisting of a switch, a router, and a hub;

the network infrastructure device housed within the first room and comprising a plurality of ports, each port thereof operably connected to an outlet of the plurality of outlets corresponding exclusively thereto;

a plurality of workstations, each workstation thereof located in a room of the plurality of rooms and operably connected to an outlet of the plurality of outlets housed therein;

the network infrastructure device, further storing and automatically updating a connection table mapping each port of the plurality of ports to an identification corresponding to a workstation of the plurality of workstations connected thereto and independent from any identification of any room of the plurality of rooms;

a processor connected to the network, for executing executable data structures; and

a memory device operably connected to the processor for storing the executable data structures and associated operational data structures, the executable and operational data structures comprising:

a reporting module configured to query [[a]] the network infrastructure device ~~selected from the group consisting of a switch, router, and hub~~ and obtain end point connection information corresponding to a first ~~network device, the network infrastructure device storing and automatically updating a connection table mapping ports thereof to node identifications~~ workstation of the plurality of workstations, the end point connection information comprising information from the connection table identifying a port of the plurality of ports through which the first ~~network device~~ workstation connects to the network infrastructure device; and

a correlation module ~~configured to associate the end point connection information corresponding to the first network device to a location identifier corresponding to a physical location~~ storing a correlation table relating end point connection information to the plurality of rooms, the correlation module programmed to receive from the reporting module the end point connection information and consult the correlation table to identify a room of the plurality of rooms housing the first workstation.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises a communication module configured to transmit the end point connection information to a central database.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an update module configured to detect a change of end point connection information corresponding to the first ~~network device~~ workstation.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect a ~~second~~ network device local to the first ~~network device~~ workstation and obtain end point connection information corresponding to the ~~second~~ network device.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a monitoring module configured to receive end point connection information from the reporting module.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the correlation module further comprises a device recognition module configured to identify the nomenclature of the first ~~network device~~ workstation based on product recognition records.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first ~~network device~~ workstation.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to a second ~~network device~~ workstation.

10-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A method for physical detection and tracking of devices on a computer network, the method comprising:

identifying a building comprising a first room and a plurality of rooms distinct from the first room;

identifying a computer network housed within the building and comprising

a plurality of outlets, each outlet thereof containing substantially exclusively, as its electronically active elements, electrical conductors carrying data signals unprocessed therethrough, at least one outlet of the plurality of outlets being housed within each room of the plurality of rooms,

a network infrastructure device selected from the group consisting of a switch, router, and hub, the network infrastructure device housed within the first room and comprising a plurality of ports, each port thereof operably connected to an outlet of the plurality of outlets corresponding exclusively thereto,

a plurality of devices housed within the plurality of rooms, each device of the plurality of devices connecting to the network infrastructure device via an outlet of the plurality of outlets;

~~identifying a functioning computer network housed within a building and comprising a plurality of devices, a first device of the plurality of devices being one of a switch, router, and hub, the first device~~ storing and automatically updating, by the network infrastructure device, a connection table mapping each port ~~thereof to each node~~ of the plurality of ports to a corresponding device of the plurality of devices connected thereto;

installing and running, after the ~~identifying~~ storing, reporting software on a ~~second~~ first device of the plurality of devices;

installing and running, after the ~~identifying~~ storing, correlating software on a ~~third~~ device of the plurality of devices, the correlating software comprising a binding table mapping ~~ports of the first device to areas within the building corresponding thereto~~ each port of the plurality of ports of the network infrastructure device to a corresponding room of the plurality of rooms;

directing, by the reporting software, the ~~second~~ first device to query the ~~first device~~ network infrastructure device and obtain from the connection table a port identification corresponding to the ~~second~~ first device; and

~~directing, by the reporting software, the second device to report the port identification to the third device; and~~

~~directing, by the correlating software, the third device to determine the location of the second device by locating the port identification within the binding table and retrieving information designating an area within the building mapped thereto~~ determining, by the correlating software, the location of the first device by locating the port identification within the binding table and retrieving from the bidding table information designating a room of the plurality of rooms mapped thereto.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 30, wherein the query comprises use of Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).